

SECURITY INFORMATION
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

25X1A

COUNTRY : Germany/USSR

SUBJECT : Treatment of German Scientists/
Living Conditions in the Leningrad
Area, USSR

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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

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The Soviet Military Administration (SMA) Laboratory at Leuna

1.

2. I believe that the SMA laboratory was established in order to
gather German scientists in preparation for their transfer to
the USSR.

later. Since it took almost five weeks to set up the laboratory,
the authorities could not have expected positive results before
our departure. The entire laboratory was designated Me-24-C.

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"Me" was the symbol for Merseburg as "Le" was used for Leverkusen; the figure referred to the building but I do not know the significance of the "C".

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who
3. The SMA laboratory was under the supervision of two Soviet scientists: Ryabkov, an engineer and Servyelski, a chemist, both of whom [REDACTED]. There were three main divisions of this project, a physical laboratory, a heavy water laboratory and an analytical laboratory.

- (a) The physical laboratory was under the direction of Dr. Franz Scheuer, a physicist, whose chemical laboratory assistant was Harry Klemt. 25X1X

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[REDACTED] Scheuer was to make measurements on German rocket fuels, in particular to test: ignition times with oscillographs, viscosity at -60° C, 25X1A
coagulation points and specific heat measurements. As

[REDACTED] testing the "ignition delay time" on these rocket fuels. /For further details about the oscillograph tests for ignition time, see [REDACTED] 25X1A
Scheuer made daily reports to the Soviet scientist Servyelski who later went to the GIPKh Institute in Leningrad where he was in charge of the two laboratories conducting research on ethylamines (Laboratories 579 and 604). While still working in Leuna, Scheuer frequently visited the Siebel aircraft group in Halle an der Saale (Soviet Zone), who also did research work on amines. Many of the Siebel scientists were taken to the USSR but I did not know any of them or where they were sent. Scheuer was sent to Moscow. 25X1A
he said that he had done little practical research.

[REDACTED]
time, that this problem was of particular interest to the Soviets and that it was the main reason for our

[REDACTED]
Servyelski had gotten all the information he needed from Scheuer and felt capable of carrying on this 25X1A
work independently. The oscillograph itself and other

- (b) The following German scientists were employed in the heavy water laboratories: Heinrich Klm, Paul Herold, Geib, and Asinger. They were instructed to make exact analyses and density measurements of heavy water produced in those Leuna installations which still existed after 1945. Their laboratory was in the vicinity of ours and under strict Soviet supervision.

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- (c) A number of chemical specialists were employed at the analytical laboratory: Gerhardt Geiseler, Andreas, Kleinert, and some others whom

Transfer to the USSR

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4. [REDACTED] the Thirty scientists from other firms, mostly construction engineers, were transported by separate trains on the same day. I remember the following people

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Andreas	Gemassmer, Gerhardt	Luebecke, Ernst
Asinger	Herold, Paul	Otto, Ernst
Eckoldt, Hans	von der Horst, Dieter	Peinze, Georg
Elm, Heinrich	Jahrmann	Pohl, Franz
Falkenberg	Jochinke, Helmut	Scheuer, Franz
Fruehlich	Kaufmann, Hermann	Schmidt
Geib	Kosterhon, Kurt	Scholz, Walter
Geiseler, Gerhardt	Lorenz, William	Smeykal, Karl
		Wyzsomiński, Ernst

While crossing Poland our transport was joined by four other trains. The first two were occupied by aircraft specialists from Junkers/Dessau and Halle a S (Siebel group). There was one train from Jena (Zeiss) and one from Kiel and Berlin (Siemens) which carried shipbuilders. It took us about five days to cross Poland. The lines were jammed with trains carrying dismantled equipment. Our locomotives had frequent breakdowns and there was a great shortage of coal. When stopped, the trains were often attacked by bandits who broke into the baggage cars. There was no medical service whatsoever until we reached Moscow. Dr Smeykal was very

5. In Moscow, the various trains were broken up and the Leuna employees were divided into three groups:

- (a) The [REDACTED] which included: Drs Kaufmann, Smeykal, Wyzsomiński, Peinze, Eckoldt, Pohl, Geiseler, von der Horst and engineers Otto and Scholz, Lorenz

constructors from Siemens and shipbuilders from Berlin and Kiel. These people who were not from Leuna stayed with us at Sestroretsk until about May 1947 and were then transferred to Oranienbaum, USSR. /See Report

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- (b) The Moscow group, which was given accommodations somewhere outside of the city but assigned to an institute within Moscow. The only member of this group [REDACTED] Franz Scheuer.

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- (c) The Ukraine group, which was also formed at Moscow. I do not know which scientists were placed in this group.

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Activity in Sestroretsk

6. [redacted] Sestroretsk, USSR (60° 06' N - 29° 58' E) [redacted] This town, a former summer resort on the Gulf of Finland, is about 40 km northwest of Leningrad. There were a number of small summer cottages which served both as living quarters and offices. It was evident [redacted] as practically no preparations had been made. Most families were assigned a single room in three-four room houses. There was a great deal of shifting around [redacted] poor accommodations which not only caused considerable personal discomfort, but made any serious work impossible. The furniture [redacted] stood in open sheds, exposed to the weather and the plundering of soldiers, in spite of the navy guards on duty. After some time, a large villa was established which housed a mess and a community hall. [redacted] films and dances were organized, but in spite of this [redacted] remained very low.
7. [redacted] work began shortly before Christmas when the following officers of the Soviet North Fleet were introduced to [redacted] Admiral Bukhanov, who seemed to be in charge of the whole project and three Korvette Captains: Chernov, Yefimov, and Titov. Two interpreters [redacted] Major Sakharorov and Lieutenant Stefanov. Sakharorov remained with the group of chemists [redacted] and returned to Germany [redacted] he was a member of the MGB who had been instructed [redacted] under surveillance. Admiral Bukhanov set up three general study groups and each scientist was asked to make a report on his specialty. According to Moscow instructions, these reports were to be completed by the end of January 1947. Because of poor working conditions, however, they did not get finished until the end of April. [redacted] everything, including chairs, drawing tables and even paper and pencils. There was no technical literature available and all the scientists could do was to draw on their memory for the required reports. Because of this long delay, Admiral Bukhanov was transferred, reportedly to Murmansk. [redacted] that Bukhanov rated as "pro-German". No one took his place. After his departure, all directives [redacted] came directly from Moscow to another admiral who lived in Leningrad. I do not know his name.

8. The study groups set up by Bukhanov consisted of the following:

- (a) Chemistry group, which was attached to the Ministry of Chemical Industries and which worked at the State Institute for Applied Chemistry (GIPKh) in Leningrad. /For details concerning the personnel and activities of this group see [redacted] 25X1A
- (b) Fuel and Oil group, which was placed under the Ministry of Petroleum Industries (NAPHTA) and worked at the KHINGAS Institute. /For details concerning the personnel and activities of this group see [redacted]

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- (c) Naval study group, which remained attached to the Naval Ministry but which was moved to Oranienbaum, now called Lomonosov, USSR (59° 55' N - 29° 46' E). For information on this group see [REDACTED]

Daily Life [REDACTED]

9. [REDACTED] daily from Sestroretsk to Leningrad. [REDACTED] commuted by train; [REDACTED] were taken to the city in a truck, and beginning about the end of the year, a special bus from the GIPKh Institute was sent [REDACTED]. After the bus service was organized, we got up at 0630 and left home at 0730. Our working hours were [REDACTED] with 45 minutes allotted for lunch. On Saturdays we worked only until 1500.

10. [REDACTED] Pastor Niemoeller say that the Moscow group, which he had visited, would return in Spring 1952 when their contract expired. With one exception, none of the German scientific groups with which I am familiar, had any contracts. This exception was a special group of shipbuilders, assembled in Blankenburg in the Harz Mountains and moved to Leningrad in 1948. They were organized into an engineer drafting and designing office and had no contacts with any other group. Their contract expired in 1950, but in spite of this, they have not returned. I only know one man from this group, Dr Sztatesny, a Viennese, who is a shipbuilding specialist. He volunteered for work in the USSR and normally worked in Leningrad. [REDACTED] believe, he moved his family to Sestroretsk for four weeks. In the mornings, I saw him on the bus ride into Leningrad. I saw him once or twice on the beach but was unable to learn anything about him. I am unfamiliar with the names of any other specialists and have never heard of Tromke or Krage. I noticed, however, that Germans with Slavic names were more inclined to cooperate with the Soviets than were other Germans. Dr Sztatesny volunteered to come to the USSR and I heard that two engineers, Lawitschka and Mislewetschek, who were moved from Sestroretsk to Oranienbaum, have volunteered to stay in the USSR. Occasionally, an SED functionary visits the USSR. Such people have special passes and some of them may have contracts.

11. [REDACTED] Sestroretsk. Then, as security regulations became more severe everywhere, our passes were taken up and we had no personal identification papers. Everytime we left our houses, to go for a short walk or shopping, we had to register in and out. If we wanted to go to Leningrad over the week end, we had to make a request by the preceding Wednesday. For such trips, or any move beyond the immediate neighborhood, we were accompanied by an "interpreter". During the summer we had one month leave. We [REDACTED]

12. Our entertainment was necessarily limited. Sestroretsk is a town of approximately 12 thousand inhabitants in the summertime, when single rooms rent for Rubles 500 and the townspeople move to their summer cottages. We could walk around the dunes or in the woods but generally the countryside is flat, swampy and uninteresting. There was only one movie theater where Soviet or East German films were generally shown. [REDACTED]

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and can remember only one film, "The Fall of Berlin" in which the last scene showed Stalin making a speech at Tempelhof. Our only foreign newspaper was the "Taegliche Rundschau", the official organ of the Soviet Administration in East Germany. It came in bunches, about two weeks late. The GIPKh Institute had an excellent library, containing at least ten times as much technical literature as the library at the Leuna Plant. All the literature was translated into Russian. The German books which were available were almost exclusively political, published in Moscow. I was surprised to find that in the second hand book stores in Leningrad, there were so many German books dating from the end of the 19th century, mostly German fairy tales. 25X1A

13. Contacts within our group and with other German groups were very limited. For one thing, our exile in the USSR did not break down German social barriers. For example, when the scientists organized social parties, [redacted] invited to attend. In summer, when we went swimming and spent the day on the beaches, we were kept separate from other groups. The Zeiss group, for example, which consisted of approximately 50 scientists working in Leningrad-Chemilovska, came to the same beaches as we, but we were not permitted to meet them. About the only contact we could have with Germans was at the theater or ballet where supervision was less strict. Some news of arrivals or departures was carried by Helga Fischer, a typist who worked in the GIPKh Institute. Helga Fischer was originally from Danzig and had been moved to Leningrad in 1945. She had a regular Soviet pass and got around more freely; occasionally she did some shopping for us. We did not really trust her as we all had the impression that she was a Soviet agent. 25X1X

14. At Sestroretsk our contacts with the Soviet population were extremely limited, particularly after 1948 when the Soviets became afraid to be seen talking to us. During the first two years of our stay, the school children were quite embarrassing. They ran behind us and shouted, "Hitler pigs", or simply "Hitler". By the winter of 1950 such insults stopped. However, at the [redacted] particularly in the workshops, the Soviets became quite friendly and we even joked together occasionally. Except for their reserve on political matters, they were just like ordinary German workers. 25X1A

15. [redacted] text books were printed in Moscow. I do not think these texts were the same as those used in the Soviet Zone since all the material concerned Soviet life. For example, arithmetic problems concerned distances between cities in the USSR. [redacted] language quite fluently. The school had about 30 pupils. The very young were sent to the regular Soviet elementary schools in Sestroretsk where all instruction was in Russian. 25X1A

Departure

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16. [redacted] before. Servieliski, a Soviet student, protested several times [redacted]

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25X1A against [REDACTED] but to no avail. The decision as to which 25X1A
people were to be returned to Germany was made in Moscow and 25X1A
one knew about it. Major Sakharov had gone to Moscow and

[REDACTED]

would no longer be any borders between Germany and Poland. The
Institute employees had said several times before, that the borders
would fall and that it would be possible to travel without a pass.
This was said seriously, not as a joke, and it seems to be almost
an article of faith among members of the Communist Party of the
USSR.
belief
anxiety

Trip Home

17. We were allowed three days in which to pack our belongings in
Sestoretsk. A special sleeper was assigned us as were some
baggage cars for family possessions. This train was very clean
and newly painted. The trip was slow, however, as our cars
were hitched to freight trains. We passed through Vilna, Minsk,
Brest (where we changed to a German train), Warsaw and Frankfurt/
Oder. Major Sakharov and the Chief of Personnel at the GIPKh
Institute, Klukov, accompanied us on this journey. I think that
they both belonged to the MVD. There was also a military guard
on the train, an officer and three soldiers. Although no
restrictions were put on us during the journey, we saw very
little besides woods and swamps. I can remember very little
about the track except that it was much better than in 1946. In
some places it was single, in others double. At Brest we changed
to the narrower gauge (when we were transferred to the German
train). From there we traveled third class, one family to a 25X1A
compartment. At Reppen, the last station in Poland, we were held

[REDACTED]

There was one large sheet for each person except for the children
who were listed with their mothers. Our first reception was
given at Frankfurt/Oder where we were greeted by a representative
of the German Democratic Republic.

Arrival

18. From Frankfurt/Oder our train was routed through Wittenberg to
Wolfen, where the transport was broken up. At Wolfen we were
picked up by a bus which took us [REDACTED] Dinner
was waiting for us and the next day I was assigned a house. This
house was better than the one in which I lived before leaving
Germany; it had steam heat. [REDACTED]
official reception was given. A series of speeches was made by
Eckhardt, Director of the Leuna Plant, the Soviet manager of the
plant, representatives of the trade unions and by members of other
SED sponsored organizations. Eckhardt promised us many things and
gave us many warnings. In fact, his speech consisted primarily of
warnings -- cautioning us not to do foolish things. Rather than
going West, he suggested we let him know of our wishes and needs.
Dr Wyzsomirski made a general answer for all of us.

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19. After this reception, we were invited to make speeches to the Soviet Friendship Society and some other groups, but, for the benefit of the shop groups, we were interviewed over the factory loudspeakers. At first this created considerable embarrassment since the people who questioned us did not know that we had

changed their questions to ones more general in scope. Some of the questions asked concerned our faith in the German Democratic Republic and its leaders. Most of the discussions were obviously held for propaganda reasons rather than to inform the listeners.

Escape

20. I was in no financial difficulties because I had accumulated 200,000 Marks 20 thousand in Leningrad which were transferred to a blocked Dr Eckoldt was the first who left for the West. He went about the end of June. Then Schmidt, Joshinke and Kosterhon disappeared. The Soviets are very careful to hide facts concerning those who escape as it is unfavorable propaganda. Workers get very suspicious when they hear that these scientists who have been in the USSR are in such a hurry to go West. was approached several times by Soviet agents who wanted me to find out about the men who had disappeared. Moreover, they I became extremely worried, fearing that the Soviets wanted to send me back to the USSR in order to help in setting up plants there.

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